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SECRET

27 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Telecommunications - Parties to 1947 and 1952 Conventions

1. The status of the United States as a party to these Conventions is considered in a separate memorandum.

2. The USSR became a party to the 1947 Convention with no reservations. The USSR (see page 121 of the 1952 Convention) stated:

"The USSR leaves open the question of accepting the provisions of the Telecommunication Convention relative to the International Frequency Registration Board, as also the question of accepting the Radio Regulations."

3. At page 124 of the 1952 Convention, the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Belorussian SSR submitted a statement:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has acceded to the Telecommunication Convention (Atlantic City, 1947) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Additional Protocol to that Convention, and hence the German Democratic Republic is a party to the Telecommunication Convention of 1947 and a full Member of the I.T.U. The Bonn authorities do not, and cannot, represent the whole of Germany, with the result that signature by their representatives of the Telecommunication Convention adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Buenos Aires is illegal."

The Federal Republic of Germany is a signatory to the 1952 Convention.

4. It is worth noting that mere signature to these Conventions does not necessarily make a State a party. For example, the United States was a signatory to the 1952 Convention, but no instrument of ratification was deposited until 1955. To the best of my recollection, Germany, also, has provisions under which a treaty must be ratified according to its Constitution; the USSR does not, so far as I recall. Consequently, the dates on which various States became parties to these Conventions may not necessarily be the date of signing.

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5. In previous discussions with the Department of State I have tried to get such information as I thought feasible without indicating too clearly what we were after. In subsequent conversations we should seek to determine to which of the Regulatory Annexes of the Conventions each of the following countries are parties and the dates upon which they officially became parties to each: East Germany, West Germany, USSR. Also, I have not as yet been able to obtain a copy of the Telegraph Regulations, so I do not know their content or applicability.

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Assistant General Counsel

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